

Notholaena Copelandii, a Newly Recognized Species of the Texano-Mexican Region

CARLOTTA C. HALL¹

Botanical collecting in the arid Southwest is a far less strenuous undertaking today than it was in the nineteenth century when travel was mostly by trail and afoot or horseback. As a result of more roads and better transportation, herbaria are now receiving many specimens of the xerophytic ferns of that region, so that our understanding of the species occurring there is much improved. Eminent fern students of those earlier days had few specimens and those often in such curled-up, poor condition that it is not surprising the species did not stand-out as more definite entities. The farinose Notholaenas were usually determined as *Notholaena cretacea* Liebm. or as *Notholaena candida* (Mart. and Gal.) Hooker. With the large United States National Herbarium at hand, Dr. William R. Maxon straightened out much of the resulting confusion in this and other fern groups of western North America. There is, however, an entity, and to me a striking one, which has apparently always been determined as *N. candida*, or not named at all, and which Dr. Maxon seems to have overlooked. This fern has a unique aspect, distinguishing characters and a range distinct and separate from that of *N. candida*.

Notholaena candida (Mart. and Gal.) Hook. (*Cheilanthes candida* Mart. and Gal.) was founded on Galeotti's collection no. 6442. In the discussion after the

¹ Carlotta C. Hall died very suddenly and unexpectedly on December 6, 1949, at the home of her daughter, Mrs. Robert S. Niccolls, of Ann Arbor, Michigan. At the time of her death Mrs. Hall had completed work on the present paper and was engaged in final revision of the manuscript, which was completed by Dr. Rogers McVaugh. [Ed.]